



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ANOTHER RESTAURANT OWNER SENTENCED IN NORTH DAKOTA'S FIRST ILLEGAL ALIEN HARBORING CASE

GRAND FORKS, ND—As a result of an investigation conducted here by special agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), a second owner of the Buffet House restaurant on Gateway Drive in Grand Forks was sentenced in federal court today.

Yun Di Lu, 41, of China, was sentenced to four months in prison plus one year of supervised release and is required to pay a special assessment of \$100. A second Buffet House owner, Hong Peng, 31, also of China, pleaded guilty in October and was sentenced to four months in prison. ICE has placed “detainers” on both Lu and Peng, which means that after serving their sentences they will be turned over to ICE and placed in removal proceedings.

“This case illuminates some of the worst aspects of illegal immigration,” said Resident Agent-in-Charge Michael Mach of the Grand Forks ICE office. “These unscrupulous business owners kept illegal employees in virtual indentured servitude, while they reaped the financial rewards of a popular restaurant.”

According to Drew Wrigley, U.S. Attorney for the District of North Dakota, this case is the state’s first involving the harboring of illegal aliens.

The case began in late August when border patrol agents with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) apprehended two illegal aliens near Grand Forks. The two revealed that they had been working at Buffet House, but left because the owners required them to work long hours seven days a week, and for very little pay.

ICE special agents began an investigation, which resulted in search warrants being served on the restaurant and a nearby apartment in early September. Agents arrested five illegal aliens and both restaurant owners.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.